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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/666,156	09/19/2000	Haruko Inoue	0819-425	9764

7590 12/03/2002

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EXAMINER

LOKE, STEVEN HO YIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2811	10

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/666,156	Applicant(s)	INOUUE ET AL. <i>VM</i>
Examiner	Steven Loke	Art Unit	2811

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 8-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 5 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 10 September 2002 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being clearly anticipated by Prior art ((figs 13(d), 14(a) and 14(b)) and (page 5, line 18 to page 9, line 10 of applicants' written description)).

In regards to claim 1, Prior art (figs. 13(d), 14(a) and 14(b)) shows all the elements of the claimed invention. It is a high-voltage MOS transistor wherein a resistance value of a source region [9s, 4s] is set independently of a resistance value of a drain region [9d, 4d] in such a manner as to maintain a high sustaining breakdown voltage of the transistor, which is based on a voltage of a source offset region [4s] and a voltage of a substrate region [2] directly under a gate insulating film [7] during operation of the high-voltage MOS transistor.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior art in view of Yoshihisa.

In regards to claims 2-4, the Prior art differs from the claimed invention by not showing a resistance value of a source offset region is set independently of a resistance

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value of a drain offset region in such a manner as to increase the sustaining breakdown voltage of the transistor. In addition, the Prior art does not show the resistance value of the source offset region is set higher than the resistance value of the drain offset region and a length of the source offset region is set longer than a length of the drain offset region.

Yoshihisa shows the length of the source offset region [22] is longer than that of the drain offset region [12] in fig. 1. Therefore, it is inherent that the resistance value of the source offset region is set higher than that of the drain offset region.

Since both Prior art (fig. 13(d)) and Yoshihisa teach a high breakdown voltage MOSFET device, it would have been obvious to have the source and drain offset regions of Yoshihisa in Prior art (fig. 13(d)) because they improve the breakdown strength between the gate electrode and the source or drain region.

The combined device shows a resistance value of a source offset region is set independently of a resistance value of a drain offset region in such a manner as to increase the sustaining breakdown voltage of the transistor.

In regards to claim 7, the combined device inherently teaches the resistance value of the source region is set higher than that of the drain region such that the voltage of the substrate region directly under the gate insulating film VW minus a forward biased breakdown voltage of silicon does not exceed a source voltage VS easily, during operation of the high-voltage MOS transistor.

5. Applicant's arguments filed 9/10/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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It is urged, in page 9 of the remarks, that reference numeral 1 is source and reference numeral 2 is drain. However, column 4, lines 8-9 of page 396 of the written specification of Yoshihisa discloses reference numeral 1 is drain and reference numeral 2 is source. Therefore, it is believed that reference numeral 1 can be drain and reference numeral 2 can be source. Since the combined device shows the resistance value of the source offset region is higher than that of the drain offset region, the combined device can have a high sustaining breakdown voltage.

6. Claim 5 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Loke whose telephone number is (703) 308-4920. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:50 am to 5:20 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (703) 308-2772. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

sl

November 30, 2002

